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RAMALLAH : A Palestinian man flashes the sign for victory and waves his national flag as Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, from his return from New York on December 2, 2012, addresses the cheering crowd telling them: "Yes, now we have a state." (AFP PHOTO)

see story on pg 6

Gerald "Gino" Kock and University of Aruba recognized by the UNWTO Ulysses Award

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and UNWTO Knowledge Network since 2003 have been annually conferring the Ulysses Prize and Awards in four categories applying knowledge to tourism. In doing so, they seek to recognize and stimulate knowledge creation, dissemination and innovative applications in tourism and to bring to light the latest advances in this area.

This year, the University of Aruba is proud to announce that among the thousands of projects submitted from over 100 nations, the University of Aruba is the recipient of their "Bronze" award for Innovation and Enterprise. The award ceremony took place on November 15 in Istanbul, Turkey.



UNWTO Ulysses Award



Myrna Jansen, Gino Kock, Glenn Thode and John Wardlaw

The name of the project derives from a popular local song composed by the venerable Hubert "Lio" Booi. The lyrics describe a mature native lady, "Chanita" who takes the fruits of her labor to the market daily. She makes a living by selling her local delicacies. The goal of "Chanita ta di Fiesta" is "to promote local, authentic ingredients produced on the island, in sync with Aruba's musical heritage. We are hoping that this fusion of food and music can create another opportunity to diversify our tourism portfolio."

Continued on page 2

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The award was presented for the project by a member of the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies, (FHTMS) Gerald "Gino" Kock, titled "Chanita ta di Fiesta," (Chanita is celebrating again.)

According to Mr. Kock, "the idea came to me one day during a drive to a lunch meeting with one of the executive chefs on Aruba. I visualized a win/win scenario for both restaurants and local farmers, at the same time preserving the island's local identity."



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Government satisfied with agreement for medical students



Dr. Schwengle

ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday evening a meeting was held with a large group of representatives of various organizations working in the field of medicine on Aruba. Purpose of this meeting was to discuss and reach an agreement to be signed into a protocol offering Aruban medical students in the region the opportunity to work here on Aruba upon completing their study.

The Prime Minister, at the end of the meeting indicated that he was pleased that they were able to reach an agreement, because it is important to create opportunities for our own students to be incorporated into the world of medicine here on Aruba.

Present at the meeting were Dr. Van Veen of the Family Practitioners association HAVA, Dr. Lampe of the specialists association VMSA, Dr. Schwenngle representing the specialists in service of the Hospital AVSD, Dr. Ranjherc, director of IMSAN, Dr. Falconi director of SZA, Ministers Eman and Visser, Dr. Rafael Croes, Dr. Alders, Dr. Lesire and Dr. Berkley.

An important protocol was signed at this meeting. Doctors who did not study in the Dutch Kingdom are not automatically allowed to practice in Aruba, and the government of Aruba believes that it is their responsibility to put a stop to this undesired situation, hence they sought an agreement to solve this problem.



Dr. Ranjherc



Dr. Falconi

bility to put a stop to this undesired situation, hence they sought an agreement to solve this problem.

The government of Aruba, together with representatives of abovementioned organizations, will make an effort to help and guide our local students and others who did not study medicine in the Dutch Kingdom. This will take place in different phases with the objective that they can comply with the competency criteria required of all medical professionals. To accomplish this goal, the government will make funds available for all expenses involved in this process. The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health will be in charge of the development of the different phases which must be executed in 2013.

For Aruban students studying medicine in the region, and for those who have studied in the region, this is a long overdue but very welcome agreement which puts an end to what is considered blatant discrimination and utter folly by our own local medical authorities.

Thank God that we have come so far after so many years of battling this problem!

Gerald "Gino" Kock and U of A recognized ...

Continued from page 1



Gazpacho, Marinated Mushroom, fresh pickles and spinach en croute from local ingredients

The program was introduced to the public in June with a spectacular display by the Hyatt Regency Culinary Team, demonstrating their enthusiasm for the concept. A wide selection of tasty and creative dishes, based on local recipes, is being integrated into their menus. Island restaurants and hotels are being encouraged to participate in this project, stimulating local farmers to diversify and increase production. La Cabana Beach Club has also become a willing participant.

FHTMS Dean John Wardlaw and the Rector of the University of Aruba, Glenn Thode, were present for the announcement of Mr. Kock receiving the award. Special thanks were extended to Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, represented by his Chief Advisor Myrna Jansen. They also expressed their gratitude to Nathalie Maduro of the Santa Rosa Center for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, which has directed a great deal of effort towards educating and encouraging islanders to pursue agriculture as a viable way of earning a living.

"The main objective of this program remains the desire to

enhance the collaboration between our tourism sector...and local agriculture," is the university's position. "We are determined to improve the linkages between locally produced foods and the people who put them to good use in kitchens. This strategic alliance will have a substantial influence on food production and consumption; moreover, it will also enhance the overall gastronomic experience of tourists. It will complement the traditional tourism portfolio of small island destinations, while reinforcing a sustainable food supply chain for the island of Aruba. We proudly receive this award today. We hope to further inspire similar alliances that will promote, enhance and protect all that is being produced locally."

Rosalie Klein

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Tambu and Tambu Songs: Aruban heritage

Tambu music is among the first type of music on Aruba. Tambo exists here for more than 200 years. Around the year 1750 African slaves were introduced to Aruba. The Caquetio Indians who lived here were able to beat on wood, blow into the 'cocolishi', but they could not beat with their hands on an object and produce sounds. The Indians could not make membranophonic instruments, under which category the Tambu falls.

Throughout the Caribbean and along the coasts of Colombia and Venezuela they play the Tambu, yet every group has a different way to put the Tambu together using goat skins. The technique of stretching the skin on a wooden phrame differs from island to island. But the greatest difference lies in the manner in which the Tambu player uses his hand to produce the different sounds. All of these characteristics are what differentiates the culture of each island.

Aruba has four different Tambu strokes: Songs of the wind, Punda, Siya and the



Dande rhythm which is the exclusive rhythm for the Dande. In the past the people could not read or write, but they would compose together and together come up with the music. The oldest singer of Tambu and Dande was Wimpi Maduro, who was born in 1836 and died in 1903.

The Tambu was used for the end of the year festivities with a repertoire of Dande. The break of New Year the entire family receives a warm salute with Dande on Tambu,

followed by a song of the wind "Prome di Juanito"...., then the head of the house would bid farewell and the Dande with the 'Siya' "Bon Nochi." All of these songs and more are on the first CD, named "Tambu y Canticanan di Tambu: Patrimonio (heritage) Di Aruba."

They have tried to conserve the Tambu songs in their original form as best as possible. The CD was dedicated to the memory of the following persons: Wimpi Maduro (1836-1903); Ma Lana Krozendijk; Ma Djuli Maduro; Goi Krozendijk 1854; Matew Maduro (1862-1948); Buchi Mion Krozendijk (1880-1932); Cola Vries; Dominico Maduro (1904-1970); Pedro Krozendijk (1905-1971); Goi Ras (1906-1991); Lie Krozendijk 1911; Andres Stamper (1911-1992); Maria Krozendijk and Seferino (Foyon) Maduro.

For more information, contact Patricia Thiel at Cel.568-8402, Bert Thiel at 594-7453, or Cecilia Thiel at 593-4587.

Aruba's Tambo is here to stay, wherever it goes, its roots remain!

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Anti-virus software pioneer John McAfee, wanted by authorities in Belize for his neighbor's murder, has been captured after weeks on the run, his blog said Saturday.

"We have received an unconfirmed report that John McAfee has been captured at the border of Belize and Mexico," his official blog whoismcfee.com said.

The website, which McAfee launched to counter what he sees as erroneous claims by the media or authorities about him, said it would provide more information as it became available.

Police say they simply want to question the 67-year-old about the murder of fellow American Gregory Faull, a Florida native who was found

dead at his home last month in a pool of blood on the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye.

Faull, 52, was shot in the back of the head, according to a police report. There were no signs of a break-in, and a laptop and cell phone were missing.

McAfee has said he fears for his life and was fleeing authorities with whom he has been at odds ever since refusing to make a donation to a local politician's campaign.

In Belize, a source at the US embassy speaking privately said people close to McAfee, in the town of Carmelita, in the San Pedro area, had denied that he was captured. A police spokesman meanwhile said he had no information on a possible arrest.

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Mr. & Mrs. Messier honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mr. Roland and Mrs. Sharon Messier, from Cranston RI, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. Roland and Sharon are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club. A certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Ms. Luzdary Leest of the Marriott Surf Club



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Cas Animal Cont'd A Happy Ending for "Little Toni"

Among the many sad stories we can tell of stray and abandoned dogs and cats, THE MORNING NEWS is happy to report another success from Foundation Cas Animal. Kirsten Arndt, who founded it with the goal of building Aruba's first no-kill shelter, dedicates her life to rescuing dogs off the streets, ideally to see them adopted into loving homes.

This week she had a heart-warming story of two young honeymooners from Cologne, Germany, Toni Jatkowski and Heike Schalli, spending two weeks at the Bucuti Resort. While touring the island they came upon a 4-month-old-puppy, weak with dehydration and starvation, at the Alto Vista Chapel. They returned every day in their rental car to bring food and water for it.

Though they could not keep the dog in their room, they were very concerned for its welfare, and began searching the Internet for local organizations that might see to its welfare. Somehow, they connected to the priest of Dr. Ricardo Contreras, who called his parishioner and charged him with finding the dog and taking it into his care. He went and collected the dog and brought it back to his clinic. They had also managed to reach Kirsten, who went to Alto Vista for three days searching for the puppy, but was unable to find it.

A casual conversation at the Contreras Clinic, where Kirsten spends a great deal of her time with her rescued dogs, brought up the subject of the puppy at Alto Vista, which the clinic had named "Little Toni," as that was the name of the person seeking to insure its rescue. Kiki contacted the newlyweds, and they agreed to adopt the puppy to come live with them in Germany. "We



Kiki, Big and Little Toni and Heike

had no expectations of returning from our honeymoon with a new baby!" they observed. "Our families will be quite surprised, but we are very happy to have this sweet companion."

"Little Toni" is now in excellent health, except for his skin, which has been burned from sun exposure. It is responding well to treatment at the Contreras Clinic. The owner of the Bucuti Resort, Ewald Biemans, upon hearing of the young pup's plight, insisted on paying all the medical expenses to make him ready for travel, as well as the transport costs for his trip to Europe via KLM. The resort has a program that encourages its employees to adopt stray dogs and cats they find on the premises, and Biemans personally acts on this policy, having adopted 10 street dogs he cares for on his large property.

Kiki now cares for nearly 70 dogs in her home, which she has converted into a temporary shelter. Her costs for feeding, treating and neutering



Little Toni when they first found him

all the dogs she rescues and maintains are astronomical. She is close to breaking ground on a proper shelter in Kibaima. If anyone wishes to help, they can support her with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will help you as she helped Toni and Heike and many others in arranging care and transport of a dog in need of a good home.

Rosalie Klein

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Guyana to probe multi-million dollar gold heist

GEORGETOWN - Guyana has launched an international probe into the seizure by gunmen of \$11.5 million of raw gold from a Guyanese-registered vessel that was docked at the Caribbean island of Curacao, officials said yesterday.

Guyana's Natural Resources Minister Robert Persaud warned that anyone trying to illegally export the 470 pounds precious yellow metal could be prosecuted.

He said Guyana's Foreign Ministry has already formally requested Curacao share all information about the incident, which occurred Friday morning aboard the MV Summer Bliss, whose captain and crew are all Guyanese.

Curacao authorities said six hooded and masked men, wearing jackets emblazoned with "police" -- instead of Papiamentu language "polis" -- were involved in the heist, a police source told AFP.

Just last month, Guyana President Donald Ramotar told a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) meeting that he was concerned about the reported level of gold smuggling out of his South American country.

Executive member of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association, Colin Sparman, said the stolen gold comes "not from our producers. Our membership is encouraged to sell to the Guyana Gold Board."

Noting that Guyana rarely exports gold to Curacao, Sparman suggested that some or all of the stolen gold had come from another country and passed through Guyana on its way to Curacao.

Police in Curacao said Saturday that they have several leads following a brazen heist. Authorities have the license plate number of one of three cars used in Friday's getaway. No one has been arrested.

Police declined to say where the gold was being delivered, but one crew member said they were delivering the gold to an unidentified company in Curacao. Neither he nor anyone else on the vessel was armed.

According to Sparman legal shipments are typically made by air under heavy security. But gold smuggling is common to avoid taxes and royalty payments on the precious metal.

Group of students of Social Formation program graduates



The Social Formation Program of the government recently held a graduation ceremony for nine young men who successfully completed the one year course. The ceremony was held during the afternoon hours in the Fort Zoutman. Dignitaries such as the Prime Minister, Parliamentarian, director of the Enseñanza Pa Empleo and instructors, and parents were in attendance. Obviously the focus was on the young men who worked hard to re-

ceive the certificate which could be used to help realize their dreams.

Jessy Ras, the director of the Social Formation Program, spoke directly to the nine young men motivating them to continue the right road they have chosen. Ras felt very proud of the men. She explained that the next group is doing well; they are a group of 12 who will be completing the program in March next year. For the third group, they received 37 registrants from

which they will select a group of 24. In December they will begin the selection process. The new group will begin the program on the 7th of January.

Jessy Ras expressed congratulations to all and especially to the parents of the youngsters. She emphasized the important role that the family, the parents play in the success of each youngster. Parents and family were given a figurative certificate in recognition of the part that they played in the success of the young men.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

'Now we have a state,' Abbas says after UN bid

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas returned to the West Bank yesterday after winning upgraded UN status for the Palestinians, telling cheering crowds: "Yes, now we have a state."

"Palestine has accomplished a historic achievement at the UN," Abbas added, three days after the United Nations General Assembly granted the Palestinians non-member state observer status in a 138-9 vote.

"The world said in a loud voice... yes to the state of Palestine, yes to Palestine's freedom, yes to Palestine's independence, no to aggression, no to settlements, no to occupation," Abbas told the ecstatic crowd.

Abbas pledged that after the victory at the United Nations, his "first and most important" task would be working to achieve Palestinian unity and reviving efforts to reconcile rival factions Fatah and Hamas.

In Gaza, Hamas official Salah Bardawil said the group was calling "for urgent meetings to achieve reconciliation."

"We are interested in

achieving Palestinian reconciliation and Hamas has presented several positive initiatives to protect the unity of the Palestinians," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP.

The return was a moment of triumph for Abbas, who last year tried and failed to win the Palestinians full state membership at the United Nations.

The bid stalled in the Security Council, where the veto-wielding United States has vehemently opposed it.

The United States, Israel and a handful of other countries also opposed the Palestinian bid to upgrade their status to that of a non-member observer state, but with no vetoes available in the General Assembly, the measure easily passed.

The move gives the Palestinians access to a range of international institutions, including potentially the International Criminal Court, and raises their international profile after years of stalled peace talks with Israel.

Abbas called the approval a milestone in Palestinian history, saying it was the achievement of Palestinians everywhere.

Ban Ki-Moon: Israeli settler bid a 'fatal blow' to peace

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN leader Ban Ki-moon warned yesterday that if Israeli implemented its latest plan for new settlements it would deal an "almost fatal blow" to any prospects for peace with the Palestinians.

Israel's announcement about the 3,000 Jewish settler homes, whose planned location was not revealed, came in the wake of a historic vote by the United Nations General Assembly to upgrade Palestine's diplomatic status.

Israeli media reported that some of the new construction would be in E1, a highly contentious area of the West Bank that runs between the easternmost edge of annexed east Jerusalem and the Maaleh Adumim settlement.

Palestinians bitterly oppose the E1 project, as it would effectively cut the occupied West

Bank in two, north to south, and make the creation of a viable Palestinian state even more problematic.

Settlements are illegal under international law and, should the E1 settlement be constructed, it would represent an almost fatal blow to remaining chances of securing a two-state solution."

Ban's statement represented an unusually strong condemnation of Israeli settlement plans from the UN chief and followed a chorus of disapproval from the United States, Britain, France and the European Union.

"The secretary general repeats his call on all concerned to resume negotiations and intensify efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace and urges the parties to refrain from provocative actions," Ban's statement said.

On Thursday, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly backed a resolution recognizing Palestine within the 1967 borders as a non-member observer state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had warned that by going to the UN, the Palestinians had "violated" previous agreements with Israel, such as the 1993 Oslo Accords, and that his country would "act accordingly."

In another tit-for-tat, Israeli Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said yesterday that the Jewish state would not transfer tax and tariff funds it collects

for the Palestinians this month

Every month, Israel transfers tens of millions of dollars in customs duties which are levied on goods destined for Palestinian markets that transit through Israeli ports, and which constitute a large percentage of the Palestinian budget.

The transfers are governed by the 1994 Paris Protocols with the Palestinians.

Israel has long feared that if the Palestinians won the rank of a UN non-member state, they could pursue the Jewish state for war crimes at the International Criminal Court -- particularly over settlements.

With their newly-acquired status, the Palestinians now have access to a range of UN agencies, as well as to the ICC, though Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas said he had no plans to immediately petition the tribunal.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as capital of their state and vigorously resist expansion plans for Maaleh Adumim, which lies three miles (five kilometers) from the city's eastern edge.

Arab East Jerusalem was captured by Israel with the rest of the West Bank in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed in a move not recognized by the international community.

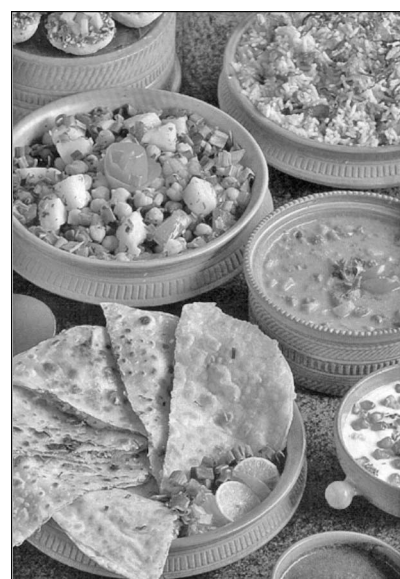
Israel considers all of Jerusalem as its "eternal, indivisible" capital, and does not view construction in the eastern sector to be settlement activity.

Spain king leaves hospital 10 days after hip op



MADRID (AFP) - Spain's 74-year-old King Juan Carlos yesterday was discharged from hospital after a successful hip replacement operation and several days of physiotherapy.

Surgeons implanted a state-of-the-art prosthetic left hip on November 23, in what was the monarch's sixth operation in two years. Doctors have said he is expected to fully recover in about a month.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Regime forces hammer Damascus outskirts

BEIRUT (AFP) - Clashes raged yesterday as Syrian forces hammered rebel positions around Damascus with artillery and air strikes, as part of an offensive aimed at securing the capital, a watchdog said.

The army also pounded the Damascus district of Kafr Sousa as it tried to block rebel forces from reaching the capital via its southwestern entrance, activists in the capital told AFP via the Internet.

Forces loyal to President

Bashar al-Assad have been trying to establish a secure perimeter around Damascus at all costs, turning the province into one of the main battlegrounds in the country's 20-month conflict.

Analysts say the objective of the military campaign is to put the regime in a position to negotiate a way out of the conflict that the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says has cost more than 41,000 lives since March 2011.

Russian drivers stuck for days in traffic jam

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian officials struggled yesterday to contain a monster highway traffic jam sparked by heavy snowfall that left many drivers stuck for days.

The congestion began on Friday on the 700-kilometer (435-mile) highway connecting the capital Moscow with Russia's second largest city of Saint Petersburg.

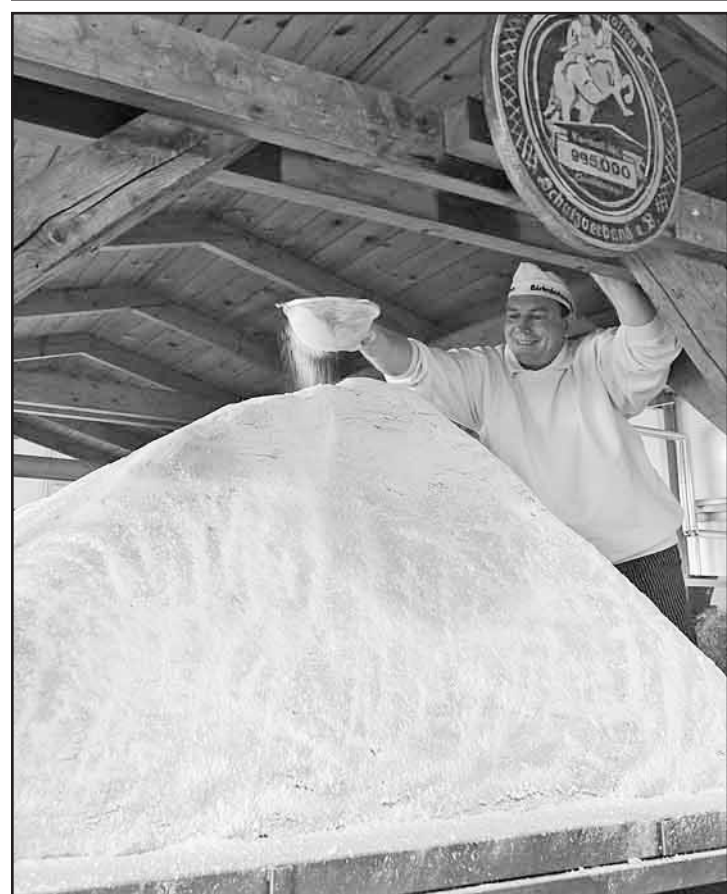
"We've only done one kilometer today," driver Oleg Bachilov told state television channel Rossiya 24, adding that he was cold and his truck hadn't moved in five hours.

Another driver told the RIA

Novosti news agency that many people had been stuck for three days and "There's no food, fuel is running out", adding that those on the road weren't seeing any government aid.

But the emergency situations ministry said in a statement that warm food and medical aid was being made available, and drivers could go to certain spots to warm up.

Yesterday, the emergency situations minister flew over the area by helicopter to monitor the help being offered, and the transport minister held talks with regional officials.



Dresden : A baker of the Dresden's 'Association for the Protection of Stollen' (Schutzgemeinschaft Dresdner Stollen) puts icy sugar on a giant fruit loave in Dresden, eastern Germany, on December 2, 2012. The giant cake will be sold on a charity event on December 8, 2012 in Dresden. (AFP PHOTO)



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China dissident brands nephew's conviction 'revenge'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Chinese blind activist Chen Guangcheng said in a video released yesterday that a three-year jail sentence handed to his nephew was "revenge" for his dramatic escape to the US embassy earlier this year.

Chen, who was imprisoned after exposing abuses under China's "one child" population control policy, caused a diplomatic row when he escaped house arrest in his village in Shandong province and reached the US mission in Beijing.

As he was freed to leave for the United States, government officials and police descended on his village home, prompting his nephew Chen Kegui to attack them with a kitchen knife, wounding three people.

A Chinese court on Friday sentenced him to more than three years in jail.

"Because I fled the country... the government officials have enacted revenge on my nephew Chen Kegui," Chen said in a video released by the US-based advocacy group China Aid.

"Chen Kegui tried to defend our family, but he was arrested and is still in jail today," Chen said, adding that "the corrupt officials who ordered his arrest... got promoted."

Chen Kegui's trial drew strong criticism from rights groups as his family members were informed about the trial just hours before it began and he was not allowed to choose his own defense lawyer.

The United States also blasted the Chinese authorities for his jailing, saying he was the victim of a "deeply flawed legal process."

Chen Guangcheng said Chinese officials had not kept their

promise to investigate years of abuse suffered by his family at the hands of local officials.

One of China's best-known activists, Chen plaudits for investigating rights abuses including forced sterilizations and late-term abortions under China's "one-child" family planning policy.

After being released from a four-year jail term in September 2010, Chen was put under house arrest in Shandong but fled to the US embassy in Beijing from under the noses of plain-clothes police on April 22.

Chinese and American diplomats scrambled to find a solution and defuse the row. After initially agreeing to stay in China, Chen decided he wanted to leave for the US and Beijing eventually agreed to allow him to apply to study abroad.

HEALTH & LIVING

Australia introduces plain packaging for cigarettes



SYDNEY (AFP) - A law forcing tobacco firms to sell cigarettes in plain packets came into effect in Australia on Saturday in an effort to strip any glamour from smoking and prevent young people from taking up the habit.

The new law, the first of its kind anywhere in the world, came into force despite a vigorous legal challenge by big tobacco, which argued that the legislation infringed its intellectual property rights by banning trademarks.

All cigarettes will now have to be sold in identical, olive-brown packets bearing the same typeface and largely covered with graphic health warnings.

A cashier at a Sydney newsagent said many customers said they found the new packaging, which must feature graphic images such as a gangrenous foot, mouth cancer or a skeletal man dying of cancer, off-putting.

Sanjid Amatya said smokers were asking to pick and choose the images on their packets, with the photograph of gangrenous toes bothering many consumers, as well as one of a sick child affected by cigarette smoke.

"Some of them don't care what the picture is," Amatya said from the store in the suburb of Wynyard where he has worked for three years.

"But some say 'Why did they change the pictures? It's so awful!'"

Anti-smoking campaigners have welcomed the new law, which stipulates that 75 percent of the front of packets must feature the graphic images.

Stafford Sanders from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Australia told AFP that research had suggested people would be put off by the packaging.

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US top court to rule if companies can patent genes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court said Friday it would examine whether companies should be able to patent human genes they have isolated and identified, a decision that could have far-reaching implications for genetic research.

An appeals court in August authorized a biotechnology company, Myriad Genetics Inc, to patent two genes it found had links to breast and ovarian cancer -- women with the gene were at a much higher risk of developing the cancers.

These patents give Myriad the exclusive right to create and distribute commercial screenings for the two genes.

But a wide-ranging group of plaintiffs -- including molecular research teams, doc-

tors, patients and the American Civil Liberties Union -- have asked the Supreme Court to invalidate the ruling.

They argue the decision to allow certain genes to be patented would slam the brakes on scientific research, as well as restrict access to care.

"DNA occurs naturally in the human body and cannot be patented by a single company that can then use its patents to limit scientific research and the free exchange of ideas," said Chris Hansen, lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU, which filed an appeal.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments in March and render its decision in June.

Argentina's AIDS population getting older: government

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina's AIDS population is aging, the health ministry said, citing statistics showing one in five AIDS patients in the country is over 45, up from seven percent a decade ago.

"Increasingly more adults are turning up, 45 or 50 years old, newly infected," said Carlos Falistocco, head of the ministry's office on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

Falistocco said this segment of the population has not typically been targeted by awareness campaigns on how to prevent and treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"You have to run specific campaigns for this group, so they will feel represented and identify with the disease," he said.

These are not the AIDS patients you see "on television or in health campaigns, but they are there in real life, in the statistics, and that is worrying," he said.

According to infectious disease researcher Patricia Patterson, the older generation "discarded condoms because they don't believe they are at risk."

Because of this, "half don't know

Health Benefits of Honey



Despite its high sugar content, honey has many healthy properties. And now, according to the latest research, the sweet stuff has been found to treat mild nighttime coughs caused by upper respiratory infections among children between ages one and five. In a new study published in *Pediatrics*, researchers discovered that honey worked better than a placebo made from date syrup to maintain sleep and suppress coughs.

But for those over 12 months, cough and sleep aren't the only benefits to the amber-colored nectar. Here's the buzz on other ways honey can improve your health:

Skin ailments: Everything from burns and scrapes to surgical incisions and radiation-associated ulcers have been shown to respond to "honey dressings." That's thanks to the hydrogen peroxide that naturally exists in honey, which is produced from an enzyme that bees have.

Mosquito bite relief: Honey's anti-inflammatory properties make it a good option to help reduce the itch and irritation of mosquito bites.

It's an immune booster: Honey is chock full of polyphenols, a type of antioxidant that helps to protect cells from free radical damage. It can also contribute to heart health as well as protect against cancer.

Acne treatment: According to preliminary research, Manuka, and Kanuka types of honey can effectively treat *Acne vulgaris*, the skin condition that is caused by inflammation and infection of the pilosebaceous follicle on the face, back, and chest.



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SCI-TECH

Microsoft, Google in catfight over online shopping



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Just in time for the holidays, Microsoft and Google have become embroiled in a bitter dispute over who is the fairest of them all for online shopping, stepping up the battle between the tech giants.

Microsoft threw the first punch when it launched a campaign for its Bing search engine "to highlight Bing's commitment to honest search results."

The campaign also seeks "to help explain to consumers the risks of Google Shopping's newly announced 'pay-to-rank' practice," a Microsoft statement said.

Microsoft created a Web page called "Scroogled," which points out that its rival has reversed course on its pledge at the time of the Google stock offering to avoid paid inclusion for search results.

"Google Shopping is nothing more than a list of targeted ads that unsuspecting customers assume are search results," Microsoft claims.

Google announced earlier this year it would revamp its product search to become a shopping service with paid listings. This eliminated merchants which opted not to pay, including some notable ones like Amazon.

Microsoft is promoting its campaign online and offline with ads "demonstrating why consumers should be concerned and helping them take action" on the Google shift, a Microsoft statement said.

But some analysts say both companies are less than transparent about how their shopping engines work, and that Microsoft is not without blame.

Danny Sullivan, analyst with the website Search Engine Land, said of the Microsoft effort: "Great campaign, if it were true. It's not. Bing itself does the same things it accuses Google of."

Sullivan told AFP that "at least Google has the fine print that you can read; Microsoft doesn't have it at all."

Microsoft, according to Sullivan, excludes new merchants from Bing search results if they don't pay for inclusion with its partner, Shopping.com, even though this is not fully transparent to consumers.

Astronomers report startling find on planet formation

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Astronomers are reporting a find that challenges traditional theories as to how rocky planets -- such as Earth -- are formed.

Besides Earth, our solar system has three other rocky planets: Mercury, Venus and Mars. They have a solid surface and core of heavy metals, and differ from planets that are large spinning bodies of gas, like Jupiter or Saturn.

The new findings suggest rocky planets may be even more common in the universe than previously thought.

Astronomers peered out into space at a brown dwarf named ISO-Oph 102. A brown dwarf is an object that is like a star but too small to shine as brightly.

Traditional theory holds that rocky planets form through the random collision of microscopic particles in the disc of material that surrounds a star. The particles, like fine soot, stick together

and grow.

Scientists thought the outer reaches of brown dwarves were different. They believed the grains there could not cling together because the discs were too sparse. Also, particles would be moving too fast to stick together after colliding.

But lo and behold, in the disc around ISO-Oph 102, the astronomers found things that, for them at least, were big -- millimeter-sized grains.

"Solid grains of that size shouldn't be able to form in the cold outer regions of a disc around a brown dwarf, but it appears that they do," said Luca Ricci of the California Institute of Technology.

"We can't be sure if a whole rocky planet could develop there, or already has, but we're seeing the first steps. So we're going to have to change our assumptions about conditions required for solids to grow."

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Anti-piracy group takes child's laptop in Finland

The father of a child accused of illegally downloading music in Finland has paid a 300 euros (£243; \$390) fine to a Finnish anti-piracy group.

He had refused to pay the original settlement of 600 euros and sign a non-disclosure agreement.

A police warrant was then issued to confiscate the lap-

top of the girl, who was aged nine at the time.

The anti-piracy group said it was acting "within the boundaries of Finnish legislation".

The girl had searched blocked torrent site The Pirate Bay for an album by Finnish popstar Chisu.

Her father claims they were unable to download the

album and purchased it legitimately the following day.

The action was taken by the country's Copyright Information and Anti-Piracy Centre (CIAPC), known locally as TTVK, which contacted the father after it discovered his ISP account had connected with The Pirate Bay.

COMICS



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1. Migrating sea swallow
5. "___ Your Eyes Only"
8. Cuff
12. Mme. Pompadour, to Louis XV
13. Prior, poetically
14. Take on hands
15. Circus performers
17. Fragment
18. Foster
19. "Full House" surname
21. Mediterranean island
24. Sodden
25. Character

part

26. Club ___
29. Make believe
32. "___ to Freedom" (Schiller)
33. Retard
34. Elsie's comment
35. Vigor
36. Tabloid tidbit
37. Composer Alban
38. Layer
40. House of ___
41. Leaves of grass
44. Outstanding one
45. Site of a circus performance
46. Circus

performers

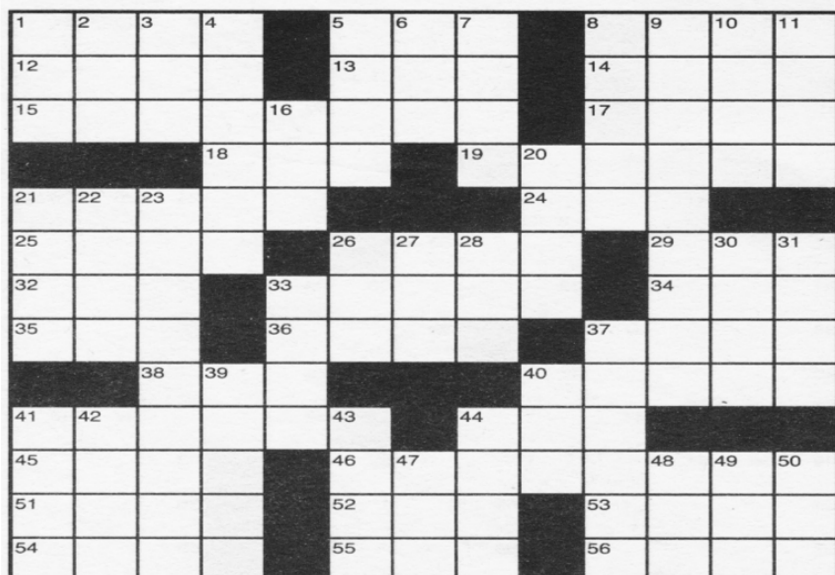
51. Pot builder
52. Brit's washroom
53. Charles Lamb
54. Mrs. Dick Tracy
55. Ski ___
56. Not faux

DOWN

1. Trump ___ Mahal
2. Aussie bird
3. Fix in advance
4. Nullify
5. Sustain
6. Hockey superstar Bobby
7. Doctor's prescription

8. Word after shoe or moon

9. Circus performer
10. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
11. ___-shaped tones
16. Deception
20. "What ___ to Go" (Shirley MacLaine film)
21. Cut closely
22. Went by cab
23. Circus performers
26. Paramount backdrop
27. Fronton yell
28. River obstruction
30. Umbilical ___
31. Apparel
33. Use the good silverware
37. B-52 or F-14
39. Wields a weed whacker
40. Manager Durocher
41. Day-care troublemaker
42. Queue
43. Shaken seasoning
44. Enlarge
47. Bird call
48. Pub potable
49. Carrere of "True Lies"
50. Mineo or Maglie



Answer on page 107

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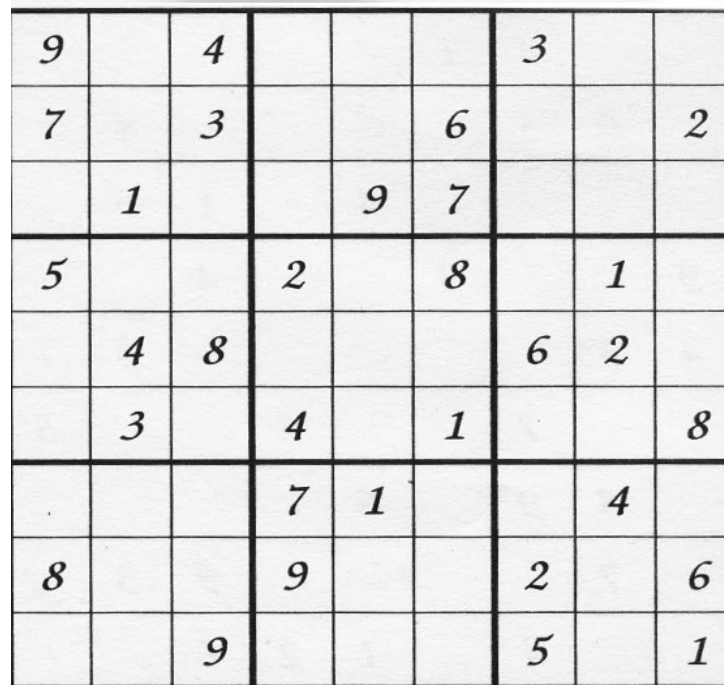
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	5	4	3	2	1	9	8	7
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	9
5	4	3	2	1	9	8	7	6
3	2	1	9	8	7	6	5	4
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	9	8
2	1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
4	3	2	1	9	8	7	6	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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White House: No US budget deal without tax hikes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lead White House negotiator Timothy Geithner insisted yesterday there would be no deal to avert the "fiscal cliff" unless Republicans allowed tax rates on the wealthiest Americans to rise.

Talks to avoid the dreaded "fiscal cliff" are at a dangerous impasse after President Barack Obama's opening gambit in the high-stakes negotiations was shot down by leading Republicans on Thursday as "ridiculous."

Markets are jittery as, without a deal by the year-end, a poison pill of tax hikes and massive spending cuts, including slashes to the military, comes into effect with potentially catastrophic effects for the fragile US economy.

Budget negotiations go right to the heart of ideological differences between Democrats and Republicans on the size and scope of government, but the biggest sticking point has clearly been on tax rates for high-earners.

Obama campaigned on a platform of raising taxes on individuals who make more than \$200,000 per year and on families that rake in more than \$250,000, as a way of raising extra revenue to tame the deficit.

Republicans insist that raising taxes on the wealthy would be counter-productive,

hurt small business owners, slow economic growth and dampen job creation.

"There's not going to be an agreement without rates going up. There's not," Geithner told CNN's "State of the Union" program, saying the ball was in the Republicans' court to propose a counter-offer to the Obama plan.

Republicans say they are ready to raise more revenue from wealthy Americans, but want to do so by closing tax loopholes and limiting deductions rather than by raising income tax rates.

"Increasing tax rates draws money away from our economy that needs to be invested in our economy to put the American people back to work," Republican House Speaker John Boehner said on Friday. "It's the wrong approach."

Geithner, the tough-talking Treasury Secretary chosen as Obama's pointman in the talks, took to the Sunday morning news shows to step up pressure on Republicans to propose a plan that embraces the spirit of compromise.

"What we did is put forward a very comprehensive, very carefully designed mix of savings and tax rates to help us put us back on a path to stabilizing our debt, fixing our debt and living within our means," he said.

Geithner said the two sides were still "far apart," but expressed hope they were moving closer together.


Former Republican president George W. Bush introduced across-the-board tax cuts that were framed as "temporary" measures back in 2001 and 2003.

The top income tax rate, which now stands at 35 percent, will automatically revert to 39.6 percent at the beginning of 2013 unless there is a new budget deal.

Obama is urging the Republicans to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for all but the top bracket, roughly 98 percent of Americans, and campaigned on this promise before winning re-election on November 6.

SATURDAY'S
Crossword Answer

A	L	E		A	R	N	O		P	O	N	E
B	E	D		R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E
S	C	R	I	M	M	A	G	E		S	O	D
	I	D	O	S		L	A	M				
L	O	V	E	R		B	E	R	A	T	E	D
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S	R	O		P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R
H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E		R	A	E
A	D	A	Y		E	K	E	D		I	R	S
D	E	L	E		S	I	R			T	N	T



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as 12/02/12	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.79	2.84	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	191.72	192.44	193.24
Netherlands	EUR	229.20	231.29	233.61
Sweden	SEK	25.71	26.43	27.23
Denmark	DKK	30.04	30.76	31.56
Norway	NOK	30.39	31.11	31.91
Japan	JPY	213.46	215.41	217.58

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FINANCE

French minister says 'no confidence' in steel tycoon Mittal

PARIS (AFP) - A French minister cast doubt yesterday on whether the world's top steel-maker ArcelorMittal would keep its end of the bargain after a compromise deal on a key plant that Paris had threatened to nationalise.

The dispute over the closure of blast furnaces at the Florange plant had risked damaging France's image among investors, after a virulent attack by a minister on the company owned by Indian-born steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal.

"There has been an agreement but there is no confidence," French Ecology Minister Delphine Batho said.

"Mittal has never kept his promises in the past," she said. "We are absolutely mobilised and the arm-wrestling with Mittal will continue to ensure that the pledges are respected."

Unions also echoed her fears.


The unions are due to meet Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayraut on Wednesday.

Ayraut announced a deal Friday in which he said ArcelorMittal had committed to invest at least 180 million euros (\$234 million) over five years at the Florange site in northeastern France.

The government and the steelmaker had been waging high-stakes brinkmanship for weeks over the fate of two blast furnaces at the plant.

ArcelorMittal wanted to shut them for good because of a slump in demand for low-end steel products.

It had given the government until December 1 to find a buyer for the blast furnaces after which it would begin laying off around 630 employees.



Cammell Laird

Birkenhead : AFP picture shows the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead, north-west England, on December 2, 2012. Around 800 jobs in the UK maritime sector have been safeguarded after the Ministry of Defence extended five contracts worth a total of 349 million pounds (430 million Euros, 559 US dollars) for the long term maintenance of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Flotilla of naval support ships.

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At nearly 80, Yoko Ono tries something new: fashion



Yoko Ono (C) with two of her creations

NEW YORK (AFP) - Yoko Ono has nearly done it all -- contemporary art, music, activism. But as she nears her 80th birthday, the widow of Beatle John Lennon is dabbling in something new: the fashion world.

Last week in New York, Ono unveiled her first ready-to-wear collection -- an edgy unisex line called "Fashions for Men," based on sketches Ono first started in 1969 and gave to her husband as a wedding present that year.

The capsule collection includes apparel, footwear and accessories. One of the most provocative pieces is the "hand" wool suit, featuring a white handprint over the

crotch of a pair of black trousers.

Bare shoulders peek out of paper-thin tight-fitting knit tops in pink or black. Tank tops and shirts are also provocative, with peekaboo holes.

"I was inspired to create 'Fashions for Men', amazed at how my man was looking so great. I felt it was a pity if we could not make clothes emphasizing his very sexy bod," Ono said in a statement.

The Tokyo-born artist -- raised in both Japan and the United States in a well-off family of bankers -- became a global icon when she married the rocker from Liverpool and really never left the limelight after Lennon's 1980 slaying.

Ono -- who was long accused of sparking the breakup of the Beatles, a claim she vehemently denies -- earned plaudits for her performance art and her work as a tireless campaigner for world peace.

Psy admits he gets sick of 'Gangnam Style'



SINGAPORE (AFP) - South Korean pop music sensation Psy admitted Saturday that he sometimes gets sick of his massive hit "Gangnam Style" but will continue performing the number that made him world-famous.

Speaking at a news conference in Singapore ahead of a free performance for fans, the 34-year-old -- clad in a

black suit and his trademark sunglasses -- was modest about his fame and said he was just another person doing his job.

"Sometimes, honestly, yes I get tired or I get sick of it because I got so many requests to teach them, you know, like average let me say 50 requests per city, per country," said Psy, whose full name is Park Jae-Sang.

"I already taught the dance to so many people, so many times but still the dance makes me here, to make a press conference in Singapore, so of course sometimes I'm tired about it, but I got to do it, it's my job," he added.

He later performed the dance in front of cheering fans outside a Singapore landmark, the high-rise Marina Bay Sands casino complex.

But Psy said that despite the many times he has performed the number, "I really like the dance still."

The chubby K-pop veteran made his debut in South Korea in 2001 but it was only 11 years later that he shot to global fame with "Gangnam Style", which a week ago made history by becoming the most watched video on YouTube.

The video has so far notched up more than 860 million views, overtaking "Baby" by Canadian teen heart-throb Justin Bieber, on more than 807 million.

Brad Pitt Can't Stop 'Twilight' Fever as 'Breaking Dawn' Takes the Box Office

Expectations weren't high for Brad Pitt's small, polarizing indie Killing Them Softly, but with one of the biggest A-Listers in Hollywood in the lead, many guessed the film could at least sink its teeth into reigning champ Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 at this weekend's box office. Not the case, as the latter once again trumped its contenders in the notoriously quiet post-Thanksgiving week at the movies.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2 from Summit Entertainment (a Lionsgate company) took home the top prize with \$17.4 million, but Sony's Skyfall with continued strong word-of-mouth and the potential for a smaller weekend over week-

end percentage drop could also make a strong bid for number one. The two films have nearly identical North American totals to date with each at around \$254.6 million and \$246 million, respectively.

Also making a mark is Disney's acclaimed historical drama Lincoln from director Steven Spielberg, which has performed impressively in the mid-week derby and had a solid weekend with \$13.5 million. The weekend brings the Daniel Day-Lewis starring biopic to \$83.7 million in North America.

Box office breakdown for the weekend of Nov. 30

1. **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2** — \$17,400,000 million (Cumulative: \$254,600,000)

2. **Skyfall** — \$17,000,000 (Cumulative: \$246,029,000)

3. **Lincoln** — \$13,509,000 (Cumulative: \$83,698,000)

4. **Rise of the Guardians** — \$13,500,000 (Cumulative: \$48,947,000)

5. **Life of Pi** — \$12,000,000 (Cumulative: \$48,361,141)

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Healthy, tasty treats on the menu at Lecca Lecca



Favorites and unique flavors like grapefruit and lemon mint

No foray to Oranjestad is complete without a stop to refresh and refuel at Lecca Lecca, the stylish "Gelato Shoppe" located right in the main bus terminal. This adorable eatery sports a menu that reflects the passion of its owner, Milly Lacle, for "healthy, natural foods, for a healthy body."

The idea of a sweet treat being good for you is contrary to everything we are being told today, but Milly did her homework before establishing her gelato and sorbetto factory on the second floor. Her recipes come from a respected gelato house in Italy, where they have been producing the refreshing, low or no fat product since the 1800's. She continues the tradition of using only fresh fruit juices and natural extracts to as flavoring.

There are absolutely no artificial colorants or preservatives in the gelato and sorbetto, which is produced fresh daily; leftovers at the end of the day are donated to children's homes Casa Cuna or Imeldahoff.

They have over 60 flavors on their roster with 18 available at the shop each day, including at least one sugar-free and one-gluten free for those with special dietary needs. All the gelato is made from organic milk flown in from Italy, guaranteed free of steroids and antibiotics. Lecca Lecca



Tutti frutti a blend of fresh exotic fruits

pasteurizes the milk in their factory, to be sure there are no chemicals used in the process. The end product is whipped light and fluffy naturally, producing a satisfying treat drastically lower in fat, sugar and calories than traditional ice cream.

Unique flavors found nowhere else are a revelation. For a delightful surprise and pure refreshment, sample the grapefruit, passion fruit or carrot sorbetto; the rich, dark, sugar-free chocolate gelato is absolutely sinful, without the guilty conscience! They also have a unique collection of yogurt gelatos swirled with fresh fruit sorbetto in delightful combinations.

Lecca Lecca offers an attractive lunch menu including



Fresh vegetable quiche

quiche made with only fresh vegetables, and sandwiches on crusty bread they prepare in their own bakery. Indulge in the soup of the day for a hearty sampling of authentic Aruban cooking.

Opened Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM until 7:00 PM; it is a must do while in Oranjestad for a refreshing treat, with the emphasis on FRESH!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with

real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two

purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to

SPORTS

On-loan Arsenal star Campbell shines in Spain



Betis' Costa Rican forward Joel Campbell (R) vies with Coruna's midfielder Bruno Gama during the Spanish league football match

MADRID (AFP) - Joel Campbell showed what Arsenal are missing this season with his sweetly struck shot giving Real Betis a 3-2 win over Deportivo La Coruna in La Liga on Sunday.

The on-loan 20-year-old curled a 25-yard effort into the top corner to put Betis clear in fourth place and demonstrate the talent of a winger who is still raw around the edges.

Campbell moved from Saprissa in his native Costa Rica to Arsenal in 2011 but was first loaned out to French side FC Lorient before joining Betis last summer.

Although blessed with pace and plenty of natural

ability his performances have been erratic but he made the most of his chance against Deportivo with Juan Carlos injured in left midfield.

Deportivo had responded with a brace from Ivan Sanchez-Rico 'Riki' after a Ruben Castro double had put the Andalusians ahead but Campbell picked up a pass from Benat Etxebarria and fired home the winner.

In a message to the Costa Rica football federation, Betis coach Pepe Mel claimed that Campbell's development has been affected by international commitments.

"Although they may be angry with me in Costa Rica it is normal that a player doesn't settle if he is all the time in a plane," he said.

"When he is a full season with us without leaving he is more in the team as he is used to our system. I think that is good for everyone: for Costa Rica and Betis and if he does well then next year Arsenal will benefit as well."

Vonn completes Lake Louise sweep



LAKE LOUISE, Canada (AFP) - Another race at Lake Louise, another win for Lindsey Vonn, who triumphed in a women's alpine World Cup super-G Sunday to complete another three-race sweep in the Canadian Rockies. Vonn, winner of downhill on Friday and Saturday, was timed in 1min 22.82sec, beating fellow American Julia Mancuso by 43-hundredths of a second. Austria's Anna Fenninger was third, 45-hundredths off the lead. Vonn notched her 14th career win at Lake Louise, where she swept three races last year as well. With her 56th World Cup triumph, she moved out of a tie for second on the all-time list with Swiss great Vreni Schneider, who reigned in the technical disciplines in the 1980s and '90s. Annemarie Moser-Proell holds the women's World Cup record for career victories with 62.

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Beckham's US adventure ends with victory continued from pg 16



Beckham celebrating with his three sons

At 37, Beckham's career is coming to a close but he has been careful not to mention the word retirement.

He is expected to make a decision on where he will end up playing next by the end of the year.

Sources close to the player have confirmed an approach by Monaco. He has also been linked with a possible move to Ligue 1 high-flyers Paris Saint-Germain where he would team up again with Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti and team director Leonardo, whom he knows from his two previous loan stints with AC Milan.

There have also been offers from China, Russia and Brazil for the former Manchester United and Real Madrid player, who says he could not see himself playing in the Premier League for anyone other than Manchester United.

Beckham celebrated in the Galaxy dressing room with his teammates, taking turns spraying each other with bottles of Korbell champagne.

"At the end of the day, winning a championship in

my last game at Manchester United and winning a championship in my last game with Real Madrid and then winning championship here in my last game it never gets old," Beckham said.

"The feeling of making the final, the preparation, the feeling around the club it never gets old. I am 37 and I have been able to play in quite a few finals and championship games. I still love it like I did when I won my first."

Even before Saturday's victory, Beckham had made a huge impact on the league since he began playing for the Galaxy in 2007.

The league has expanded from 12 to 19 teams and it has more than doubled its overall attendance. Beckham hopes to get back into the league one day as an owner of an MLS team.

"It is better going out with two titles than one," Beckham said. "It has been a successful six years here with reaching three MLS Cup finals. I will enjoy this one tonight."

"I just hope people have enjoyed me playing here and

watching me play for the Galaxy.

"My impact will be down to what other people decide. But I think I have had a successful time here. When I came here six years ago my commitment was to the Galaxy, to the league and to the sport and that doesn't change even though I am not playing here."

Beckham has been capped 115 times for England, scoring 17 goals while captaining the side on more than 50 occasions.

He captured a half dozen Premier League titles during a sensational 12-year career at Manchester United that also saw him win the FA Cup twice and the 1999 Champions League title.

In July 2003, Beckham signed with Real Madrid, helping them to the 2006-07 La Liga title. He joined the Galaxy the next year, debuting in a friendly against Chelsea at the Home Depot Center.

Beckham helped grow the sport in the United States, but his time in southern California has not been without controversy.

He has faced criticism for missing games and has had run-ins with fans, especially when he first arrived. His loans to European teams, which caused him to miss parts of MLS seasons, angered some Los Angeles fans who displayed their dislike with signs at games that said "Go home fraud," and "Part time player."

The Galaxy also made several mistakes in their handling of Beckham, including giving the appearance that they were treating him as just any other player despite paying him more money for one practice than several of his teammates made in a full season.



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Kaymer wins Nedbank Challenge title



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Germany's Martin Kaymer

won his first title this year after a final round three-under-par 69 at the Nedbank Golf Challenge on Sunday, beating South African Charl Schwartzel by two strokes.

The 27-year-old sunk four birdies at the 7,162-metre Gary Player Country Club and came out ahead of Schwartzel despite a double-bogey on the third immediately after his eagle on the par-five second.

At one point he was tied with South Africans Schwartzel and Louis Oosthuizen as well as Bill Haas from the United States at five-under, but his consistent play at the rainy northwestern Sun City resort saw him through.

The German's first victory this year crowns a difficult return after a bad season. World number one early in 2011, Kaymer's performance slumped toward the end of the year.

"I'm just very happy to finally win this year. That was the important thing for me, because I've practised very hard and played very well the last few weeks and months but it just hasn't happened for me on the golf course," he said.

Schwartzel hit the same round of 69 as Kaymer, but though his four birdies closed the gap, a bogey on the 17th saw him end two strokes behind the winner.

Defending champion Lee Westwood from England carded a one-over-par 73 to end with 287 -- seven behind Kaymer. His tepid performance saw him miss the record to be the first player to win the "African Major" three consecutive times.

Kaymer takes home \$1.25 million in prize money.

Trout stays unbeaten with decision over Cotto

NEW YORK (AFP) - Austin Trout retained his World Boxing Association junior middleweight world title this past weekend, remaining unbeaten with a 12-round unanimous decision over Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto.

In a closely contested bout, Trout finished strongly to hand Cotto a first defeat at Madison Square Garden, the landmark New York arena where Cotto had won seven previous bouts.

Judges Steve Weisfeld and John Poturaj saw it 117-111 for Trout while Adelaide Byrd scored it 119-109 for Trout, who improved to 26-0 with 14 knockouts.

"I knew some of the rounds were close," Trout said. "I felt like I pulled out a lot of rounds, but you never know in a close round."

Browns employee reportedly kills self at team facility

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - An assistant groundskeeper for the Cleveland Browns killed himself at the NFL team's practice facility, NFL.com reported Sunday, exacerbating an already traumatic weekend for the sport.

The Browns released a statement on their website confirming that employee Eric Eucker had died. The team gave no details, but NFL.com said the Cuyahoga County medical examiner's office had confirmed Eucker had been found dead of apparent hanging in a maintenance shed.

Eucker's body was discovered on Saturday, the same day that Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher shot and killed his girlfriend.



Cotto, a three-division world champion, fell to 37-4 with 30 wins inside the distance.

Cotto, fighting in his adopted hometown, was an overwhelming favorite among the crowd of more than 13,000 but even he looked resigned after the final bell.

His face battered, Cotto knelt in a corner of the ring as Trout's corner lifted their man aloft as the fighters waited to

hear the decision.

"I've been waiting for this moment my whole career," said Trout, who despite his unbeaten status had yet to cement his place among the division's elite.

"You do get anxious when you fight a guy like him, but it motivates you, too."

"I had to show him I was the bigger guy and push him back a couple times. I kept pushing him back to show him he had no advantage."

It was a second successive defeat for the 32-year-old Cotto, who dropped a unanimous decision to unbeaten Floyd Mayweather in May.

Cotto had insisted that fight, although he lost, "rejuvenated" him.

But Saturday's defeat cast doubt on a planned Cotto bout with World Boxing Council 154-pound champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez of Mexico.

Alvarez was at ringside, and Trout made it clear he wants a shot at the Mexican star.

"Hey, Canelo, I want you Canelo," Trout said. "It's time to unify this division. I need that strap off his waist."

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Chiefs player Belcher dead in stadium suicide



KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AFP) - The Kansas City Chiefs took the field with heavy hearts Sunday at the stadium where a day earlier linebacker Jovan Belcher shot himself after police said he shot and killed his girlfriend.

Chiefs chief executive Clark Hunt told The Kansas City Star that the hours leading up to the NFL contest against the Carolina Panthers had been "incredibly difficult."

"It's been an incredibly difficult 24 hours for our family and the entire organization," Hunt said. "We have so many guys on the team and on the coaching staff who are really hurting."

Hunt said he left the decision on whether to play up to players and head coach Romeo Crennel, who was

among the Chiefs staff members watching when Belcher, 25, arrived at the team training facility on Saturday shortly after shooting his 22-year-old girlfriend Kasandra Perkins at a nearby house.

As police arrived at Arrowhead Stadium in response to an emergency call, Belcher fatally shot himself, Kansas City police spokesman Darin Snapp said.

Snapp said Crennel, general manager Scott Pioli and another Chiefs staff member had gone outside to talk to Belcher. "Belcher thanked them for being a Chief, and that's when he walked away," Snapp said. When he was 30 or 40 feet (nine to 12 meters) away, Belcher killed himself with one gunshot to his head.

The couple left an infant daughter, Zoe. Police said she was in the care of Belcher's mother, who was visiting from out of town, saw the first shooting and called authorities.

The Chiefs opted not to memorialize Belcher specifically on Sunday, but they held a moment of silence before

the game in recognition of victims of domestic violence.

Belcher, who played high school football on Long Island, New York, had been with the Chiefs for four years. He joined them as an undrafted free agent out of university and worked his way into a starting position.

Police said Belcher and Perkins argued before he shot her, but the violence stunned those who knew the player.

"Something went crazy wrong, and we'll probably never know what it is," Belcher's agent Joe Linta was quoted as saying on SI.com.

Belcher's coach at the University of Maine, Jack Cosgrove, was among the many voicing horrified surprise at the murder-suicide.

"His move to the NFL was in keeping with his dreams," Cosgrove said. "This is an indescribably horrible tragedy.

Beckham's US adventure ends with victory



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - David Beckham wrapped up a six-year stint in America by playing his final game in the MLS Saturday, capping his time with the Los Angeles Galaxy with back-to-back championship titles.

The former England cap-

tain Beckham went out with bang, not only leading the Galaxy to a 3-1 win over Houston and their fourth MLS Cup crown, but his presence has helped the league achieve unprecedented growth and newfound respect overseas.

Beckham is now set to begin a new chapter with another club in a brilliant football career that has allowed him to also win titles in his final games with Manchester United and Real Madrid.

Beckham deflected questions Saturday about where his next stop would be.

"I have no idea," Beckham said. "More important I am happy wearing this uniform today. I am happy I been successful with this club."

Continue on pg 14

Milan to sell for swoop on SuperMario: reports

MILAN (AFP) - AC Milan could look to sell Brazilian pair Robinho and Alexandre Pato to boost coffers for a sensational January swoop on unsettled Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli, reports said Sunday.

Italian media have been linking Balotelli, formerly of Inter Milan but a known supporter of AC Milan, with a shock move to the Rossoneri for several weeks.

The speculation gathered pace on Sunday with reports suggesting club owner Silvio Berlusconi, a known admirer of 'Super Mario', wants to re-

create Balotelli's partnership with fellow Italy striker Stephan El Shaarawy at Milan.

El Shaarawy has scored a league-topping 12 goals in 15 games so far for the seven-times European champions, who are enjoying a resurgence after a disastrous start to their Serie A campaign.

Both Corriere dello Sport and Tuttosport carried reports Sunday claiming Milan have been looking at ways to secure Balotelli's signature for several weeks.

Neither report, however, cited any sources from the clubs in question.



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